A Developmental Services Bulletin from the Ministry of Community and Social Services

Budget 2007 and Developmental Services

On Wednesday May 2, Minister of Community and Social Services Madeleine Meilleur unveiled the details of the 2007 Budget for developmental services at the Centre for Opportunities Respect and Empowerment (CORE).

Minister Meilleur shares a laugh with day program participants at CORE after outlining the provincial government's plans to boost the developmental services sector by $200 million over four years

For the first time, agencies that provide services and support for people with a developmental disability can count on planned, multi-year increases for wages and services. This year, agencies will get $22.2 million for base funding, which will increase by 2 per cent annually for four years. In addition, agencies will get $20 million for targeted wage gap funding to address the lowest paid employees in the sector. Base and wage gap funding will grow to $181 million in 2010/11.

Capacity in programs and services will be strengthened with additional funding as well. In its first two years, the innovative Passport Program helped more than 1,600 individuals with a developmental disability transition from school to community participation. This year, Passport will receive a further investment of $7 million to increase the number of participants to 2,100 by 2008. Mentoring, a component of Passport, will expand to include Toronto, Peel and Six Nations.

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
	($ millions)			
Agency Base Budget Increases (2% compounded annually)	22.2	44.8	68.0	95.4
Agency Wage Gap Funding	20.0	40.3	61.0	85.6
Developmental Services Program Enhancements	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0
Total Increase	**62.2**	**105.1**	**149.0**	**201.0**

Currently, the government provides more than $95 million in Special Services At Home (SSAH) to assist close to 27,000 individuals and families. This year's additional $3 million investment in SSAH will help an estimated 400 more individuals and families, and work to maintain zero waitlists across the province.

The 2007 Ontario Budget is providing $6 million to help people with a developmental disability to live independently in the community. This operating funding will support the creation of more than 70 new community spaces for individuals on community residential support wait lists. A capital investment of $2 million will build and renovate spaces.

With this new funding injection, the government will have invested more than $500 million in developmental services since 2003.

"With so many important and worthy but competing needs across the province, I have been grateful for the support of my Premier and my colleagues," said Meilleur. "I am very proud of this budget. Our government made a commitment to help vulnerable Ontarians with a wide spectrum of needs and with this funding, our transformation takes another giant step forward."

For more information on the 2007 Budget and developmental services, please visit the Ministry of Community and Social Services website at: http://www.mcss.gov.on.ca

Passport: Announcement For Applications

A second round of applications for Passport is now being accepted. Families/individuals are requested to submit their applications to their local Passport Designated Agency. **The deadline for applications is June 15, 2007.** Families/individuals are encouraged to review the Passport guidelines, frequently asked questions and tip sheet posted on the ministry website to support their application at http://www.mcss.gov.on.ca/mcss/english/pillars/developmental/programs/young_leave_school.htm.

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This bulletin is also available online at:
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May is Community Living Month

A message from the Deputy Minister

Throughout the month of May, communities around the province are celebrating the abilities and achievements of people with a developmental disability and raising awareness of inclusion and accessibility in our society.

For over 50 years, the community living movement has been a source of tremendous support for thousands of individuals with a developmental disability.

This is an ideal time to celebrate forward-thinking communities, the dedication of our agencies and volunteers, and the commitment of individuals with a developmental disability and their families to community living.

I hope you will join me in taking pride in the great strides we have made so far in transforming Ontario's developmental services and celebrating the contributions of people with a developmental disability in our communities.

Kevin Costante
Deputy Minister